

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mayor Dennis Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call-

Present: City Council Members, Buddy Templin, Kevin Day, Dave Harrison, Elizabeth Lamping, Kara Ferguson, Robert Ferguson, and President Pro-Tem Gary Hall. Also, present were, Mayor Dennis Buckley, Clerk Treasurer James W Coffman, and City Attorney Craig Wiley.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Special Presentations-

Vietnam Veterans Day- Proclamation was presented to DAR to recognize Veterans on March 29, 2020.

Swearing in of new Beech Grove Police Officer Kelsey Gemballa.

Youth Council update from Principle Liz Walters.

Approval of Minutes-

February 3, 2020 – Councilor Harrison moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Lamping seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

February 18, 2020- Councilor Lamping moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments-

None.

Committee Reports-

ABC – Shirley Challis- Three renewals were approved for Payless, Walgreens on Albany, and the American Legion. A transfer for Nite Owls was also approved for the new owners.

RDC- Elizabeth Lamping- Last meeting showed a bank balance of \$305,045.68. The RDC will have a presentation at their next meeting on the Greenway. RDC and the Clerk Treasurer are working on clarifying some financial information in regard to the Greenway and the RDC.

Compliance Report- none.

Greenscape- packet.

Public Safety- packet.

Financial Report- Clerk Treasurer, James W. Coffman

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$2,635,879.30

Utilities \$643,591,.80

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$42,345.40

RDC General \$305,045.68

RDC Debt Service (DSR) \$240,000.00

Old Business-

Update on 5th Street Parking- President Pro-Tem- Gary Hall personally monitored the area during a ten-day period and came to the conclusion spaces were available 73% of the time. Hall met with Marion County Code Enforcement to discuss resources and better procedures. Also, in attendance at this meeting was BG Compliance Ed Bell and Cathy Chappell. From there, Hall met with Chief Maurice, Deputy Chief Mercuri, and Ed Bell with compliance to discuss each departments duties. Thanks to Norman Wade for his patience. Wade has to decided to request a handicap sign near his business. Thanks to Buddy Templin and Robert Ferguson for helping out. The owner's father in law has posted signage on the building in an attempt to limit the parking, however, those signs are not enforceable.

Apartment Sewer Rate- Update on the apartment building sewer bills. Discussion will need to be had about billing based on usage versus a flat rate. Mayor Buckley is open to any suggestions. Clerk Treasurer provided an update on how citizens are being notified about the rate increases. Our financial software Keystone, does the billing and has the increase numbers ready to be implemented and sent out.

Update on sewer assistance programs- Councilor Robert Ferguson reached out to Greenwood, Cumberland, Lawrence, and Speedway and none of them offer any type of program for assistance. IPL and Citizens Energy refer customers to 211 and also offer grants. Other cities are looking at ways to reduce stormwater from infiltrating the sewer system. Ferguson will continue to research and report back.

New Business-

Resolution #4, 2020, Distracted Driving- Resolution in support of House Bill 1070 preventing the use of cellphones while driving. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Robert Ferguson, seconded by Kara Ferguson, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Conflict of Interest- Rekeweg- Lynn Rekeweg is a Fire Fighter for the City of Beech Grove and also helps and invoices the city for IT work. Motion to approve the Conflict of Interest was made by Lamping, seconded by Day, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ambulance Rate Discussion (no vote)- Chief Cheshire presented information about the current EMS service provided by the City of Beech Grove and the fact that costs of equipment and medicine continue to increase. Beech Grove currently charges less than what is being charged around us. In 2019, the City brought in \$1,263,201 in revenue, but also had to wrote off more than three million dollars in revenue for bills not paid. Each Councilor agrees the need to visit this issue in ordinance form and learn more next month.

Council Comments-

Councilor Templin – Thanks to the Fire Department for inviting the Council to the station. Thanks to Tom Hannan for all his hard work. BG has incredible services, thanks to the department heads and good leadership.

Councilor Day – Thanked everyone for coming, and thanks to the Fire Department for breakfast.

Councilor Harrison- Thanked everyone for coming and thanks to the Fire Department for breakfast. Basketball update.

Councilor Lamping- Thanks to everyone for coming, and thanks to the Fire Department for breakfast. Challenge to all to participate and complete the next Fire Ops 101.

Councilor Kara Ferguson- Thanks to the Fire Department for the breakfast and looks forward to the same with the Police Department! Citizens and Council are kind and are working together. Thanks for making Beech Grove beautiful.

Councilor Robert Ferguson- Thanks for coming and thanks to the Fire Department. Congratulations to Officer Gemballa.

Councilor Hall- Thanks for your time and congrats to the new Officer.

Mayor Buckley- Parks Board member, Dan Norris, has stepped down from his position on the Board. This position is appointed by the Mayor and will be filled by Tara Wolf.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Templin moved to adjourn, and Councilor Day seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Dennis Buckley, Mayor

James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer